13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

824 **Persea americana** Miller, Gard. Dict. ed. 8 no. 1. 1768.
Persea gratissima Gaertner filius, Fr. & Sem. 3: 222. 1807.
Persea persea Cockerell, Bull. Torr. Bot. Club 19: 95. 1892.
Alligator Pear, Avocado. — Z'Aboca.

The avocado, a native of Central or South America, has been cultivated in the West Indies for many years for its edible fruit. The latter also is the source of an oil used for burning and for making soap (8).

The Caribs, like all other inhabitants of Dominica, grow the tree for its fruit. These may be eaten in a variety of ways, but are often mixed with manioc farine and pimento.

Specimen citation: 112 (T), 3335.

ROSACEAE. Rose Family.

Chrysobalanus icaco Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 513. 1753.
Coco-Plum, Icaco. — Z'Icaque[25]. — *ikáku*, *hikáku*, *nalábunõ* (m).

A small evergreen tree or shrub common on coasts throughout the West Indies, Central America, and northern South America.

The hard, heavy wood of the coco-plum is pounded by the Caribs to make a wick for gommier (*Dacryodes excelsa*) torches. As elsewhere in the American tropics the small, plum-like drupes (which may vary in color from white to pink and purple) are frequently eaten.

Specimen citation: 584, 585, 3067, 3351.

Licania ternatensis Hooker f., Kew Bull. 81: 251. 1893.
Licania hypoleuca Griesbach, Fl. Br. W. I. 230. 1860, non Bentham.
Bois Diable.

This tree, found in the Lesser Antilles from Guadeloupe to Trinidad, is one of the commonest trees of Dominica's rain forests.

Timber of bois diable is used by the Indians for posts, sole-

[25] Not to be confused with a crimson-flowered species of *Inga*, known in the Carib Reserve as ti (petit) z'icaque. This low cultivated shrub has become established in several areas in the Reserve.

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
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Timbra of bois d'inble is used by the Indians for posts, sole-
plates, etc., while the wood is considered to be the best in Dominica for the manufacture of charcoal, the principal kitchen fuel of the island. The pounded wood is also employed by the Carib as a wick in torches made of the gum from the gommier (*Dacryodes excelsa*).

Specimen citation: 578, 1237, 2067, 2672.

LEGUMINOSAE. Pulse Family.

Andira inermis (Wright) Humboldt, Bonpland, and Kunth, Nov. Gen. **6**: 385. 1823.

Andira jamaicensis Urban, Symb. Ant. **4**: 298. (1905).

Bastard Mahogany. — Angelin, L'Angelin. — *uakábu* (« house-post »).

This species of tree is found throughout the West Indies and continental tropical America, and in Dominica occurs at lower to middle elevations.

The hard, red-brown wood of angelin is very durable and is used by the inhabitants of Dominica, Caribs included, for posts, boards and all types of heavy constructional work.

Specimen citation: 3332.

Arachis hypogaea Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 741. 1753.

Peanut. — Pistache. — *mâli* (cf. Tupi *mandubi*).

The peanut is widely cultivated in the warm temperate and tropical regions of the earth. Although earlier writers believed in an Old World origin this American species is probably indigenous to Brazil, but was also known in pre-Columbian times by the ancient Peruvians (1) (11).

Caribs eat the seeds either raw or roasted, and an oil is also prepared by grinding. Raw seeds are considered to possess aphrodisiacal properties. The pistache is also an ingredient in a ritual bath described under *Ocimum micranthum*.

Specimen citation: 3328.

Cassia alata Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 378. 1753.

Herpetica alata Rafinesque, Sylva Tell. 123. 1838.

Ringworm Shrub (18). — Dessy.

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

BURSERACEAE. Gumbo-Limbo Family.

K824 **Bursera simaruba** (Linnaeus) Sargent, Gard. & Forest 3: 260. 1890.

Bursera gummifera Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. ed. 2: 471. 1762.

Elaphrium simaruba Rose in No. Am. Fl. 25: 246. 1911.

Gumbo-Limbo, West Indian Birch, Turpentine Tree, Gum Tree. — Gommier Rouge.

This conspicuous tree is widespread in the West Indies, also in the continental American tropics, particularly in dry thickets at lower elevations.

In the Greater Antilles gumbo-limbo is frequently planted as a roadside shade tree.

[752] The Caribs apply the fragrant gum of gommier rouge locally as a plaster for contusion or internal injury. Because cut posts [417] readily take root and grow, the tree is also used to construct «live» fences.

Specimen citation: 3146.

Dacryodes excelsa Vahl, Skr. Nat. Selsk. 6: 117. 1810.

Dacryodes hexandra Griseback, Fl. Br. W. I. 174. 1859.

Gommier. — *sibu* («support, buttress»).

A tall columnar tree found in the Antilles from Puerto Rico to Grenada. In Dominica's mountain rain forests the gommier is one of the dominant species.

Throughout the Caribbee isles the straight trunks of this species have been much used in the construction of dugout canoes.

A white fragrant resinous gum (known to the Caribs as *kurukai*), [314] «gum elemi» exudes freely from any incision made on the slaty gray trunks of gommier trees. The material hardens in the air so the gum can be readily scraped off and put to a number of uses. [302] Breton (7) records that it served as an unguent used by the youths and maidens on feast days. It is employed to light fires ● [373] and to make torches [with the wick of pounded bois diable wood (*Licania ternatensis*), tree fern caudex (*Cyathea arborea*), or z'icaque wood (*Chrysobalanus icaco*)]. Boiled together with shark oil [316] and mixed with cotton-lint, mahoe fiber (*Guatteria*, *Hibiscus*, etc.),

13: Hodge & Taylor N. E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

814

Ipomoea spp.
piitaiu

Several wild twining species of *Ipomoea* (other than *I. pes-caprae*) are to be found in Dominica.

Leaves of certain species are employed by the Caribs to rub the body when bathing, and their use is considered to bring health and luck to the user (see *Eryngium foetidum*).

Specimen citation: 3318, 3323.

BORAGINACEAE. Borage Family.

Bourreria succulenta Jacquin, Enum. 14. 1760.
Tawai, Taway. — *tawái*.

A small tree of the West Indies and common in Dominica at lower elevations.

From the inner bark of this species is obtained an emollient fluid which the Indians often use to soothe inflamed eyes, a disease from which they frequently suffer. The wood burns easily and so the Caribs sometimes use it for torches[10].

Specimen citation: 17 (T).

Cordia reticulata Vahl, Eclog. Am. 3: 5. 1807.
Coco Poule.

A medium-sized tree of the Lesser Antilles and Venezuela and common in Dominica at lower and middle elevations.

The leaves of coco poule are believed to relieve headache. When used for headache they are placed on the forehead of the suffering Carib.

Specimen citation: 3359.

Tournefortia bicolor Swartz, Prodr. 40. 1788.
Mirette.

This species occurs throughout tropical America.

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[10] Because of this use the tree has sometimes been called bois chandelle, but should not be confused with *Brithalis fruticosa*, the true Carib bois chandelle.

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

A 824 A woody vine common in the American tropics and found in Dominica at lower elevations.

[228 847] Flowers of branda, together with those of *Petrea kohautiana*, are brewed by the Caribs into a tea used as an abortive.

Specimen citation: 683, 692.

Erithalis fruticosa Linnaeus, Syst. ed. 10. 930. 1759.

Black Torch. — Bois Chandelle, Bois Flambeau. — *tili* (« torch »; cf. Tupi *tari*).

This shrubby tree is widely distributed in the Caribbean region, being found in southern Florida, the West Indies, and Central America. In Dominica bois chandelle grows commonly in the low scrubby thickets of the windward coast.

[313] The extremely hard, durable, wood is used by the Island Caribs for piles and posts and indeed wherever a timber is needed for contact with the ground. An inflammable resin is located in the wood which is split and bound into torches. These torches, [373] about three to four feet long and three to four inches in diameter, burn rapidly and last for approximately two hours. The soot of burnt *tili* wood was formerly used by the Caribs as a substitute for burnt gommier (*Dacryodes excelsa*) gum.

Specimen citation: 15 (T), 684, 3291.

Exostemma sanctae-luciae (Kentish) J. Britten, Journ. of Bot. 53: 138. 1915.

Exostemma floribundum Roemer & Schultes, Syst. 5: 19. 1819.

Quina. — *wiruko*.

This species ranges through the Lesser Antilles.

[228 847] From the bark of quina Caribs make a concentrated decoction which is employed chiefly as an emetic and purgative. When combined with the pounded leaves of marigold (*Wedelia trilobata*) and immortel (*Erythrina corallodendron* var. *bicolor* Krukoff) the decoction is also given to women to induce expulsion of the pla- [384] centa after childbirth. Canoe paddles are fashioned from the wood.

Specimen citation: 139 (T).

Genipa americana Linnaeus, Syst. Nat. ed. 10. 931. 1759.

Genip. — *diarí-ñai* (m), *adua* (w).